

Asleep at Television Switch?

Six-Mo. Holdback On Hostel Films

After January 1, 1945, all 16 mm. film showings in canteens and hostels in any place where there is one or more theatres will have to be six months old or older. This was decided at a recent meeting at which distributors, exhibitors, representatives

(Continued on Page 9)

1,286 Houses in Six Territories

Theatres served by Canada's six distribution centres numbered 1,286 in 1944, while 43 houses were dark during the year. These figures include Newfoundland theatres, seven of which are listed in the theatre directory as being served from Saint John,

(Continued on Page 9)

Canadian MPI Not Represented On Ether-Spectrum Board

There is a dangerous lack of interest in television post-war problems on the part of the Canadian motion picture industry, which has not seen fit to become a contributing sponsor of the recently-organized Canadian Radio Technical Planning Board. The organization is mainly concerned with future frequency allocation and spectrum utilization.

'Mayerling' in Feb.

United Artists' remake of the French hit, "Mayerling," goes into production in February, Mary Pickford has announced.

P. C. Taylor Acquires Theatre Interest

Percy Taylor last week acquired the interest of T. C. Harrington Estate in the Border Theatre, Rock Island, Quebec. Taylor was Canadian general manager of RKO in Toronto for many years. He is the father of Hatton F. Taylor, present manager of RKO, Montreal. The senior Taylor retired for a few years but is now returning to the industry.

Coval Joins WB Foreign Dept.

Irvin (Babe) Coval, popular manager of Warners Montreal branch, has been appointed district manager for Trinidad, British West Indies, by Wolfe Cohen, formerly Canadian general manager, who recently shifted to the foreign department of the company.

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Sunday Vaudeville Illegal in Quebec

On the grounds that the Gayety Theatre, Montreal, "has been giving vaudeville shows on Sundays which is illegal," Premier Maurice Duplessis has suspended the theatre's operating permit.

Ontario and Quebec Winners Named

Ontario and Quebec winners in the Seventh Victory Loan Scrap Book Contest of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee were announced last week. Books of the winners of first prize become eligible for the national contest. Provincial prizes are \$50, \$25 and \$10, the first a Victory Bond and the latter two in War Savings Certificates. National prizes are \$100, \$50 and \$25, the first two being Victory Bonds and the last one a War Savings Certificate.

A. Kent Craig, Capitol, St. Catharines, won first prize in Ontario, his book being selected by a committee of judges appointed by Herb Allen and Nat Taylor, provincial co-chairman.

Second prize in Ontario went to Walter Helm, hard-working man-

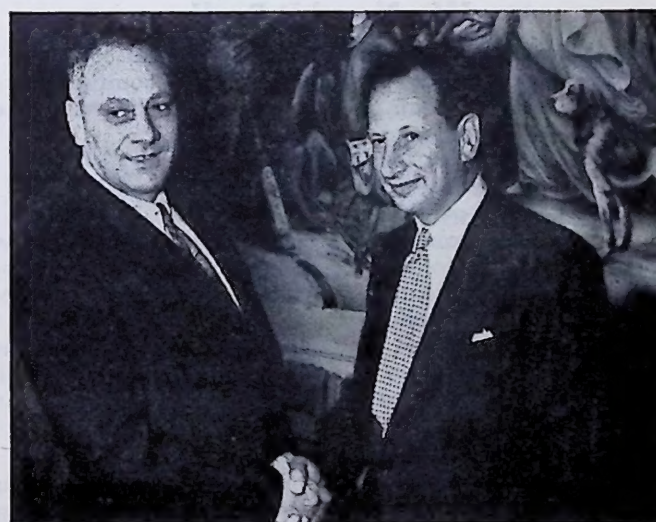
(Continued on Page 9)

George O'Brien Dead Was Vet Project'ist

George O'Brien, projectionist of the Ace, Toronto, died on his way home from work on December 16. the veteran theatre man has three sons in the service, two in Italy and one in training at Debert, Nova Scotia.

He was a member of Local 173, Toronto, for 25 years and a brother-in-law of J. H. Leslie, secretary of Vancouver projectionists union, Local 348.

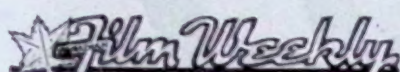
Reunion in Trinidad



Irvin (Babe) Coval, Montreal branch manager for Warner Brothers, now district manager of Trinidad under Wolfe Cohen of the Foreign department, is shown with the latter in photograph made in Hollywood in September. Cohen was formerly WB Canadian general manager.

The Suspect

Thrilled millions as a book and Cosmopolitan hit — now it's at its greatest — on the screen. With lovable Charles Laughton and brilliant Ella Raines. Available now. Book this sure-fire attraction now through **EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL**.



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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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A Variety Tent

Although there was some confusion as to the exact purpose of that recent luncheon meeting, one fine idea was revealed — that of organizing a Toronto tent of the Variety Clubs of America.

Most of us understood that the meeting had been called in behalf of the Canadian Motion Picture Industry Benevolent Fund, sponsored by the Pioneers and not limited to them. The Pioneers have their own benevolent fund and this new one would solicit from all and extend its benefits to all.

Introduced by Chairman Leo Devaney, Oscar Hanson, who is one of the spark plugs of the new fund, explained his enthusiasm but made no reference to a Variety Club. The next speaker, Simon Meretsky of Windsor, surprised the listeners with his reference to the organization of a Variety Club. Paul Nathanson announced a \$1,000 contribution to the benevolent fund by J. Arthur Rank but did not refer to the Variety Club. J. J. Fitzgibbons devoted much time to a description of the aims and accomplishments of the Variety organizations.

The question arose whether money contributed to the benevolent fund would be handed out through (a) the Pioneers own fund, (b) the special benevolent fund, (c) or the Variety Club. The answer is, as we understand it, that such money will go into the special benevolent fund now and may be transferred later to the Variety Club.

Most did not fill in their pledges, feeling that they would wait until the home of the benevolent fund was established as either the Pioneers or the Variety Club.

The suggestion that the Variety Club be a wing of the Pioneers wasn't accepted. Ben Okun, who has been boosting Variety here for over a year, is not a Pioneer.

We Need It Badly

No film community ever needed a Variety Club as much as that of Toronto. Variety provides a common ground for everyone in the amusement industries—and we haven't one. Variety provides a place where one can spend an evening with others of the amusement industry or his section of it—and there is no such place now.

Toronto has exhibitors' organizations, distributors' organizations, a projectionists' organization, an exchange workers union, a Motion Picture War Services Committee—but no single organization to which all belong for purposes of trade amity or public service.

At least a Variety Club will overcome some of those shortages. The intention is to charter a Toronto tent first, then spread the plan to other Canadian amusement centres.

What is Variety?

Variety is the heart of show business. The word "heart" is used here more in a sentimental sense than in a geographical one.

The original Variety Club was founded in Pittsburgh in 1928 when showmen adopted a baby abandoned in the Sheridan Theatre. There are now 26 tents devoted to the charity and welfare of their communities under the national leadership of R. J. (Bob) O'Donnell. Each city has clubrooms, usually in a hotel.

Variety clubs have established hospital clinics, health centres, hospital wings, boys camps, mothers' milk banks, blood banks, playgrounds and many other benefits and their contribution to the social welfare of the United States has been recognized by leading citizens of that nation.

Coval Joins WB Foreign Dept.

(Continued from Page 1)

pany, with supervision over a number of territories.

Successor to Coval as Montreal branch manager hasn't been named yet.

Coval, who was born in Manchester, England, entered the film business in 1928 as a salesman for Universal in the Winnipeg territory. He left that company to go with F. W. Pearson, Inc., Chicago, as field representative, staying there from 1929 to 1933.

He returned to Winnipeg in 1933 as a salesman for Empire Films, then became Calgary branch manager. In 1936 he was a salesman for Warners in Winnipeg and Calgary. In 1939 he was transferred to Vancouver as branch manager, succeeding Joe Plottel, who had become Ontario branch manager.

When Phil Sherman resigned the Montreal branch management of Warners to enter exhibition, Coval was transferred again.

Head offices of the Trinidad division are in the capital and leading city, Port au Spain, and Coval and his wife will take up residence there. Trinidad itself has a population of 413,000 and the exchange area served from it consists of the British West Indies, British and Dutch Guiana.

It was considered likely that Wolfe Cohen, in charge of a vast area, would call on some of his former Canadian executives to join him and perhaps Coval may be just the first to do that.

Ether-Spectrum Board Ignored

(Continued on Page 11)

Hon. C. D. Howe rules.

One result of the war has been a tremendous increase in the use of private radio for inter-company purposes. This, added to the needs of home, school and theatre television, will create a great wave length problem, since each will require its own. The CRTPB was formed in an endeavor to avoid a post-war scramble for wave lengths and to assist a smooth transition from present technical conditions to the improved ones of the future.

President of the CRTPB is R. M. Brophy. R. A. Hackbusch is vice-president and W. W. Richardson treasurer. A delegate and an alternative are appointed to the administrative committee by each allied industry.

Attitude of the American motion picture industry isn't anything like that of the Canadian. Its representatives follow closely the activities of Radio Technical Planning Board of the USA and the Television Broadcasters Association, Inc.

Television Broadcasters Association, Inc. held its first annual convention in New York and there were top executives from the film industry among the 750 registrants. Theatre television was discussed before a special panel headed by Paul J. Larsen, Society of Motion Picture Engineers, and addressed by representatives of Paramount, RCA and RKO Television.

There are several Canadian members of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers who, because of their interest in radio and television, would make excellent representatives of the industry to the CRTPB.

It would appear that allocation of post-war wave lengths for television and other purposes will be made according to plans that will be discussed in the near future. It is imperative that the Canadian motion picture industry be on hand while this planning is going on. Its apparent lack of awareness about television problems emphasizes the absence of a single all-industry organization devoted to the progress of the Canadian motion picture world.

Ruggles Makes Rank Deal for Leahy

Wesley Ruggles, Hollywood representative for J. Arthur Rank, is reported closing a deal with Fred Leahy, veteran production executive, under which Leahy will go to England in an executive studio capacity. Leahy has been associated both with MGM and Paramount for 18 years.





THAT LUSCIOUS



CHERRY BLONDE...

VIVIAN BLAINE, the new star discovery

in technicolor

Something For The Boys

...something for you to
shout about... from the
big **BROADWAY**
hit, made
bigger by...

CARMEN MIRANDA • MICHAEL
O'SHEA • VIVIAN BLAINE (The Cherry
Blonde) in "SOMETHING FOR THE
BOYS" with Phil Silvers • Sheila Ryan
Perry Como • Glenn Langan
Directed by LEWIS SEILER
Produced by IRVING STARR
in Technicolor • Screen Play by Robert
Ellis, Helen Logan and Frank Gabrielson • Based on
the Musical Comedy Book by Herbert and Dorothy
Fields • Cole Porter Songs • Music and Lyrics
New Songs by Jimmy McHugh and Harold
Adamson • Dances Staged & Directed by Nick Castle



20th
CENTURY-FOX

In the Meantime, Darling

with Jeanne Crain, Frank Latimore
20th-Fox 72 Mins.
TENDER STORY ABOUT ARMY ROMANCE HOLDS STRONG APPEAL TO FEMMES.

The trials and tribulations of the army wife are taken up in fairly interesting fashion in a film fabricated out of familiar material. Since the picture emphasizes the romantic aspects of the story, it is likely to be more acceptable to women than to men. The chief appeal to the masculine patronage is engineered via some moments of G.I. humor.

Specifically the production tells of the experiences of a couple of newlyweds, a daughter of wealth and a lieutenant. The girl's inability to adapt herself to her new life and failure to comprehend her duties as an army wife make her extremely unpopular. The girl finally comes to her senses and gains the friendship of the other wives and wins back her husband's love after coming within a hair of losing it.

The film is tender and human and the direction of Otto Preminger is adequate.

This, Jeanne Crain's first starring vehicle, isn't the best of sendoffs, although the girl performs sympathetically. Frank Latimore is okay as her husband. Stanley Prager stands out among the others.

CAST: Jeanne Crain, Frank Latimore, Eugene Pallette, Mary Nash, Stanley Prager, Gale Robbins, Jane Randolph, Doris Merrick, Cara Williams, Ann Corcoran, Reed Hadley, Heather Angel, Bonnie Bannon, William Colby, Cliff Clark, Elisabeth Risdon, Marjorie Massow, Lee Bennett, Roger Clark, Carleton Young, Mae Marsh, Ruth Clifford, Frank Wilcox, Glenn Langan, Clarence Muse, Blake Edwards.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Okay.

New Para Tele Device For Theatre Screens

Paramount is planning to make available to all theatres a newly perfected device for the projection of a televised event on the regular theatre screen within two minutes after the event has taken place.

Paul Raibourn, president of Television Productions, Inc., has revealed details of the new patented process. Pictures from a tele receiving set in the projectionist's booth are photographed on film, developed and printed and run through the regular projector. Relay from the receiving set to the theatre screen is done in one operation.

Days of Glory

with Tamara Toumanova, Gregory Peck
RKO 86 Mins.
TALE OF RUSSIAN GUERRILLAS IS GOOD DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT WITH STRONG ROMANTIC UNDERCURRENT.

Employing the services of a cast of screen unknowns, Casey Robinson has produced a drama of Russian guerrillas that has much to offer those in search of serious entertainment. Those whose tastes are for the lighter things will find "Day of Glory" heavy going by reason of its very subject. The picture makes its chief appeal to women audiences through a romantic involvement in which the star participants are Tamara Toumanova and Gregory Peck, who play the man characters in a manner that would do justice to performers with extensive film experience.

The picture is a record of the lives and activities of a Soviet guerrilla band making its headquarters in the cellar of an ancient monastery near a village held by the Nazis. The appearance of a ballerina, saved from death by one of the guerrillas, threatens to disrupt the efficient operations of the band. The girl finds it difficult to become one of the group, chiefly because she can't bear the thought of carnage. It takes an ironic twist of fate to prove her mettle as a warrior in the cause of her country. From the point the film is as much a romance as it is a realistic and uncompromising recital of the heroic work of the Russian guerrilla fighters. The film has an unhappy ending in which everyone comes to a tragic end in a death struggle with the Nazis.

Miss Toumanova, well known as a ballet dancer, and Peck are backed by a fine group of performers who contribute some really excellent portrayals. Standing out in the supporting cast are Alan Reed, Maria Palmer, Lowell Gilmore, Hugo Haas, Dena Penn and Glenn Vernon. The acting carries conviction.

CAST: Tamara Toumanova, Gregory Peck, Alan Reed, Maria Palmer, Lowell Gilmore, Hugo Haas, Dena Penn, Glenn Vernon, Igor Dolgoruki, Edward L. Durst, Lou Crosby, William Challee, Joseph Vitale, Erford Gage, Ivan Triesault, Maria Bibikov, Edgar Licho, Gretl Dupont, Peter Helmers.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Ministry of Fear

with Ray Milland, Marjorie Reynolds
Paramount 84 Mins.
FORCEFUL MELODRAMA ABOUT NAZI PLOTTING IS PASSABLE AS ENTERTAINMENT.

"Ministry of Fear" is a taut melodrama with many gripping moments. While the film under the forceful direction of Fritz Lang succeeds in creating a mood of fear, its plot has not been developed with too much clarity in the screenplay of Seton I. Miller, who also has functioned as associate producer.

The scene is London in wartime. Ray Milland, just released from an asylum where he has been incarcerated for the murder of his wife, finds himself caught in a plot concocted by enemy agents in an effort to get valuable information out of England. In attempting to get to the bottom of the villainy he is almost killed. The film contains the hint of a romance between Milland and Marjorie Reynolds, a refugee Austrian girl whose brother Carl Esmond, turns out to be the villain of the piece.

The acting does much to hold the audience's interest in the goings-on.

CAST: Ray Milland, Marjorie Reynolds, Carl Esmond, Hillary Brooke, Percy Waram, Dan Duryea, Alan Napier, Erskine Sanford, Thomas Loudon, Aminta Dyne, Eustace Wyatt, Mary Field, Byron Foulger, Lester Mathews.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Very Thought of You

with Dennis Morgan, Eleanor Parker
Warner 99 Mins.
TENDER TALE OF ROMANCE IS CERTAIN TO WIN HEARTS OF WOMEN PATRONS.

Here is a tender tale of two young people in love that will hit the women squarely in the heart. The direction of Delmer Daves succeeds in keeping the interest constantly alive despite a story that is not possessed of too much substance. The film owes much also to the attractive production accorded it by Jerry Wald.

The lovers are Dennis Morgan and Eleanor Parker. Their romance blossoms when Morgan comes back to Pasadena, Calif., after a long hitch with the Army in the Aleutians. Most of the drama is supplied by the opposition of Miss Parker's mother (Beulah Bondi) and her older sister (Andrea King) to the match. Nothing stops the lovers and they are married as the youth is about to go overseas. The two are happily reunited at the end. There is a secondary romance involving Morgan's buddy (Dane Clark) and a pal of Miss Parker's (Faye Emerson).

Clark, who has the comedy assignment, steals the attention. Morgan and Miss Parker make a fine romantic pair.

CAST: Dennis Morgan, Eleanor Parker, Dane Clark, Faye Emerson, Beulah Bondi, Henry Travers, William Prince, Andrea King, John Alvin, Marianne O'Brien, Georgia Lee Settle, Dick Erdman, Francis Pierlot.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Hague Again Heads Picture Pioneers

Clair Hague was re-elected vice-president of the Canadian Pictures Pioneers at a meeting of the newly elected board of directors in Toronto. Leo Devaney became vice-president, George Beeston, treasurer and Ray Lewis remained as secretary for the 1945 term.

J. J. Fitzgibbons is director of public relations and Clare Appel director of publicity. Jack Arthur heads the entertainment committee and Ray Lewis the sick committee.

Membership committee is comprised of Louis Rosenfeld, Haskell Masters, Archie Laurie and Clair Hague.

Benevolent fund committee members are Oscar Hanson, Charlie Mavety, Ray Lewis and George Beeston.



CLAIR HAGUE

Re-elected president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers.

AVAST!

No Record
Is Safe!



SAMU
BO.
The Prin

with VIRGINIA MAYO and WALTER SLEZAK.

Screen Play by Don Hartman, Melville Shavelson



AMONG THE CAPTIVES...

CHICAGO . . . BUFFALO . . . LOS ANGELES
CINCINNATI...SAN FRANCISCO...DAYTON
KANSAS CITY...SALT LAKE CITY
ATLANTA . . . NEW ORLEANS . . . OMAHA
TAMPA . . . READING . . . HARRISBURG
CHARLESTON...ROCHESTER...SYRACUSE
SIOUX CITY

EL GOLDWYN *presents*

B HOPE *in* **cess and the Pirate** *in* **TECHNICOLOR**

WALTER BRENNAN • VICTOR McLAGLEN

Directed by David Butler
Associate Producer • Don Hartman

and Everett Freeman • Released through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

THE annual Imperial Christmas Party was expanded to include FPCC's other downtown houses so it was a case of come one, come all. The merriment was proportionately broadened as Tom Daley, Jack Trotter, Bill Dawly, Buzz Blondell, Art Milligan and the rest of the natives made their cousins from Shea's and the Tivoli welcome.

Daley and his lads mixed lighting and props to provide a stage setting that was an ocular thrill, a tradition at the Imperial. This is viewed from the front of the auditorium as the curtain goes up and is welcomed with a burst of applause. Then everyone moves to the stage.

No sooner did the curtain go up, providing the aforementioned thrill, but another was revealed. Len Bishop, the droll-witted manager of the Tivoli, was entwined with a microphone, and put the welcome into words.

Fred Trebilcock, manager of Shea's, made a vital contribution to the gayety of the evening. His is the only house of the three with femme ushers and he delivered his flock of chicks—or bevy of aisle beauties—if you like. (I do.) They, with the rest of the girls, gave a demonstration of feminine mass psychology when all at once, like a flock of pigeons leaving the ground, they lit upon Tom Daley and covered him from Adam's Apple to nape with the Sign of the Ruby Lips, their highest degree.

Ted Smith of Shea's, who is a long time away from fresh hair, won a permanent wave during the draw.

Jack Arthur of head office and his wife, the popular Midge, were very welcome guests who spent much time renewing acquaintance with old friends from the various staffs.

* * *

DEAR Simon Meretsky: You owe me 45 cents that I paid for your lunch that day that you joined Joe Bermack, Jack Bernstein and myself in Sam's delicatessen. You had just concluded touring us through the excess profits woods and we had passed millions of dollars. So I can understand you forgetting to pay your lunch tab of a few pennies. Please remit.—H.B.

* * *

THAT all-time storm was worse in Hamilton than in Toronto. Charlie Greenwood, at the Mountain Theatre, Hamilton, was advised by Mavety that film was being shipped by express and should be returned the same way. So Charlie and his projectionist, after trying everything, finally got a toboggan off a kid, pulled it all the way downtown to the station, unloaded the old film and picked up the new. The show must go on. (Or must it?)



How to Write a Column

It's a favorite dodge for guys in this columning racket to dig through the desk when they're stuck for raw material. Why not me? This is the time of year to clear debts and desks. Me, I'm a desk man. A guy who fights his way through a wall of living secretaries all year is bound to accumulate plenty of paper and I, as visitors will testify, am usually bedded down in enough to fill the Grand Canyon.

Each scrap has scribbles and scrawls that can't be deciphered. Why isn't it thrown away? Some day I might be able to read my own writing and the odd recognizable word may lead to a story and get me a decision over that damned deathless deadline. What purpose is there in making these notes in the first place? I look at them in despair a minute after they are written, abandon them and, being under pressure, write a better story without them. Especially if they are a report of somebody's speech. I write him a better speech than he ever made. After he reads it he swears that that is exactly what he said word for word.

Naturally, a man who runs around his office in this chicken-without-a-head fashion picks up plenty of things beside illegible notes.

What's This Stuff

Here's an envelope with headache tablets that were given me by that life-saving Bea Shapiro, Monogram's wenchy publicity girl, who didn't want the flow of these golden words impeded by noggin strain.

This is a batch of sleeping tablets left by that obliging Syd Taube who, having the same problem, felt sorry for me.

Hello, a bottle of Vitamin B pills. A few left. I'll take a couple. What can I lose?

This stuff is several helpings of Copenhagen snuff presented by Tom Daley, who said it clears nasal passages and the brain. I tried it and was nearly knocked out. It's apparently for Mari-timers, who are a tough breed.

What's this electric razor doing here? Oh yes, Jack Melzer gave it to me. It's strictly a secret weapon. I raise a rash every time I try it.

Here's a button with "To Hell With Hitler" on it.

This is a little leather horse left here by Red, janitor of one of the buildings nearby. Red's favorite actor is Roy Rogers, although he (Red) is about 50 years old. He used to get fan photos of his hero from us. He got sick and in the hospital he learned to make these stuffed leather horses, which he sells for 50 cents. So now Red is a business man and probably makes more money than I do.

Mygosh, a Yo Yo! It was left here by Mel Jolley's babe while both were visiting. I spent plenty of time trying to master it. I'm sorry I found it. Now I'll have to start all over again.

Scripts and Scraps

Here's a radio script Sam Sales and I wrote. And my manuscript of book by me called "Guide for the Gullible" or "Let Us Prey." All about small time rackets . . . A note about the bank clock on the corner being painted over. Kept bad time and probably threw its hands up in despair . . . A reminder to do a Flashback on Sam Welles . . . A photo of Leo Devaney taken many years ago. He was a good-looking geezer then . . . And here's one of Jake Smith in a high collar and a frock coat. Some class . . . Irving Hoffman's novel signature torn off one of his letters. He works it into a kind of Mickey Mouse. He's the Hollywood Reporter columnist . . . The telephone number of a girl named Julie. Now, who in blazes is she? . . . Letters under the desk glass from J. Arthur Rank and Mary Pickford. Sounds big, eh? Doesn't mean a thing . . . Here's a story about Dick Main. He was in conference the other day and the girl in the switchboard had a number of calls for him. So she spoke to him over inter-office gadget. "Do you wish to be disturbed, sir?" she asked. "Not just now, dear," was answer. "Later."

I haven't even looked at half the stuff—and there's just enough room left to wish you a Happy New Year.

COLUMBIA is not only the gem of the ocean but a company of competent and generous film folks—which is the introduction to revelation of a coincidence.

When the British decided recently that they could no longer make prints for showing to Canada's men and women on the fighting fronts, Captain Gurston Allen of the Directorate of Special Services, Brigadier Fairhurst of the Salvation Army and Frank Vaughn, then of the RCAF, went to the USA War Activities Committee with their problem.

The first men they saw was J. McConville, head of the Foreign Managers Committee of the WAC—and head of the Foreign Department of Columbia.

The matter was placed in the hands of the WAC's London man, J. Friedman, general manager in Britain for Columbia.

The first film to be offered Canadians by the WAC is "Together Again"—Columbia production.

Captain Gurston Allen, one of the three who helped solve the problem, is formerly of Columbia's Canadian head office, Toronto.

Small film world, eh?

* * *

THAT was quite a Christmas party PRC had. Yours truly, Ray Lewis, Barney Fox, Norm Allen, Syl Gunn, Frank Gilbert and Harold Kay were among those who sipped and supped (somewhat) with Harry Allen and his boys and girls. Jerry Chernodorf, formerly of Montreal and now of here, went over big socially. Couldn't help it. You have to walk around him to see past him. He looks like he grew up when a dollar bought much more food than it does now.

Lloyd Mills, PRC Ontario manager, practiced moderation by giving instead of taking, which is good for the soul as well as the body this time 'o' year.

* * *

YOU read amazing news about Canada in some of the USA trade journals. One called Sydney Samson "20th-Fox publicity man" when he is general manager and stated that Charlie Dentlebeck had retired . . . Clifford Odette's social consciousness in "None But the Lonely Heart," as voiced by Ethel Barrymore: "Love isn't for the poor. No time for it." Yeah? How about the lines of that old popular song that go: "The rich get richer but the poor get children" . . . Lou Simon has dropped out of theatre management temporarily and opened a photography shop on Yonge near Dundas . . . Syd Taube of the MPTAO acted quickly when it was announced that none but essential traffic would be allowed on Toronto streets after the big storm. His intervention caused film carriers to become one of the exceptions to the ban.

1,286 Houses in Six Territories

(Continued from Page 1)

New Brunswick.

These and other figures on Canadian theatres were compiled by the head office of the Canadian Film Boards of Trade in Toronto, of which Ed Wells is executive secretary.

According to 1944 statistics:

There are 704,814 seats in Canadian theatres.

There are 790 towns with theatres.

There are 265 theatres which operate one and two days weekly.

There are 108 theatres which operate three and four days weekly.

There are 913 theatres which operate six and seven days weekly. The number of theatres serviced by each territory is: Toronto, 404; Winnipeg, 250; Montreal, 214; Calgary, 185; Saint John, N.B., 127; Vancouver, 106.

The number of seats in each territory is: Toronto, 276,910; Winnipeg, 95,448; Montreal, 136,480; Calgary, 59,641; Saint John, N.B., 68,588; Vancouver, 67,742.

The number of theatres in the chief cities in each territory is: Toronto, 112; Winnipeg, 43; Montreal, 62; Calgary, 11; Saint John, N.B., 5; Vancouver, 39.

Columbia Sets Three

Columbia will start on its heavy 1945 shooting schedule with three top-budget features scheduled for the sound stages during the month of January. Trio consists of "Over 21," which rolls on January 3, "Some Call It Love" and "Kiss and Tell."

PQ and Ontario Winners Named

(Continued from Page 1)

ager of the Avon, Stratford.

J. C. Musclove, Strand, Tillsonburg, won third prize in Ontario.

Winner of first prize in Quebec was R. L. Vallee, New Premier Theatre, Sherbrooke.

George Champagne, Auditorium Theatre, Shawinigan Falls, took second prize in Quebec.

Third prize went to G. T. Robert, Capitol, Three Rivers.

Craig and Helm provided a good theatre effort but accepted much hard work by acting on regional publicity committees. Helm was chairman of the public relations section for the County of Perth and Craig was vice-chairman in Lincoln County.

Musclove, in an industrial area, concentrated on boosting the payroll savings plan through the theatre. He had the committee make up a reel of local news. This made quite an impression.

At Mid-Winter Session



Here are the Canadians who attended the Mid-Winter sales meeting at the Astor Hotel, New York. Left to right—Ed English, Montreal; Sydney Samson; Canadian district manager; H. J. Bailey, Toronto; R. G. March, St. John; V. M. Skorey, Calgary; J. E. Patterson, Vancouver; J. H. Huber, Winnipeg; Ted Shaw, home office.

Some Good Stunts On MGM Pictures

Dewey Bloom got in some good stuff on two current Regal releases, "Marriage is a Private Affair" and "An American Romance."

"Marriage" was written first as a book by Judith Kelly of Toronto, whose mother still lives in that city. A private screening for Mrs. Kelly and Principal Edith Reid of Branksome Hall, where Miss Kelly was educated, won much space in the daily papers.

Dewey also did some good work on "Romance," which has steel mill background, in Hamilton, steel town. "Steel Mill Becomes Movie Star," reads one ad.



Canadian
Paramount News

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FOR ALL

NARRATED BY
WINSTON BARRON

Six-Mo. Holdback On Hostel Films

(Continued from Page 1)

of the service organizations and the armed services were present. The exceptions are, of course, regular army camps.

There are some 45 hostel and canteen 16 mm. situations in Canada and a small number of them were showing new or comparatively new films. It is estimated that over 70 per cent were showing films from six months to a year old. Most wait for the army camps to be finished with prints and this takes up to eight months and more.

However, in some cities hostels were showing prints of films which had not yet appeared in local theatres as first and sub runs. This brought objections and the matter was settled with no trouble.

Growth of co-operation between 16 and 35 mm. distributors and exhibitors is considered to be a good thing all around. While most 16 mm. product comes direct from 35 mm. producers now, this may not be true in the future. One Hollywood company is making 16 mm. features exclusively and there may be other sources of product in the future than the present ones.

There is also in existence a group of old 16 mm. prints that were purchased outright and the distributors of these are not bound by ordinary industry restrictions. Such prints have found considerable circulation in Quebec.

It is best that an understanding exist between the 16 and 35 mm. dealers as both fields expand so that overlapping may be guarded against.

Rank Gains Ground In South Africa

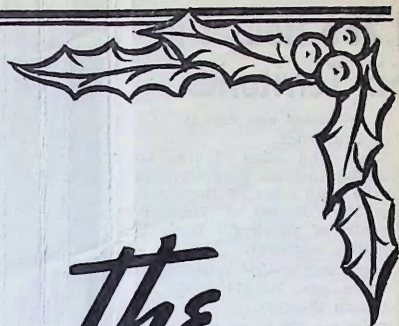
J. Arthur Rank announced recently that he has completed arrangements which will get playing time for British pictures in 100 South African theatres. At the conclusion of the war, he said, he and associates will erect modern theatres in leading South African cities.

During the annual meeting of Gaumont-British in November, J. B. Clark asked Rank some critical questions about the company. The British leader denied that there was an inner cabinet amongst the directors, did not agree that directors fees were too high, revealed that Cinema Television, Ltd., was making money, said that the E.P.T. (whatever that is) restricted dividends to six per cent regardless of profits, and that he felt hurt at the suggestions.



Letters from home was the theme of the campaign conceived by Fred Trebilcock, manager of Shea's, Toronto, in connection with the Warner Brothers feature, "The Very Thought of You," which was carried out by Glenn Ireton, WB Canadian exploitation director. This mail campaign was carried on at General Engineering Company, Toronto.

In the photo are Victor Perry, district director of Postal Services, (Toronto); Glenn Ireton; J. F. Cooper-Smith, president of the War Veterans Association; and Mrs. Vivian E. Weeks, national co-ordinator of the volunteer mail groups throughout the Dominion.



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and a
Happy New Year

Paramount Pictures

